

REMARKS

The specification and drawings have been amended to make editorial changes therein, bearing in mind the criticisms in the Official Action, to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 6, 19 and 20 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, and have been amended as to form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-6, 9-12, 15-16, 19-22 and 25 were rejected as anticipated by IKEDA et al. 6,711,167. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IKEDA et al. does not disclose the ATM switch that is between the separate units which perform the functions recited in the claims and thus the amended claims avoid the rejection under §102. The Official Action takes the position that IKEDA et al. discloses an ATM communication apparatus in which the sending/receiving control 8 (in conjunction with CPU 2) performs the recited functions. This arrangement does not correspond to the structure of the amended claims in which the two units are separate and connected through an ATM switch (for example, as disclosed in Figure 5 of the present application). Accordingly, the amended claims avoid the rejection under §102.

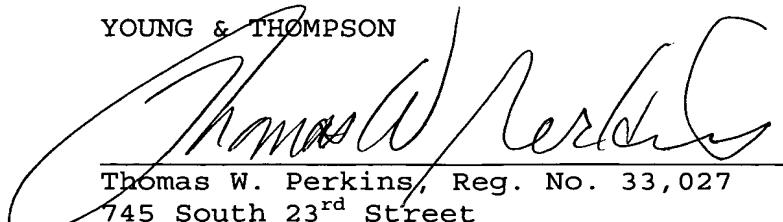
Claims 2-3, 7-8, 13-14, 17-18 and 23-24 were rejected as unpatentable over IKEDA et al. in view of KSHIRSAGAR et al. 6,016,319. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment. KSHIRSAGAR et al. is relied upon for other features and does not make up for the shortcomings noted above. Accordingly, the amended claims avoid the rejection under §103.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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